

"Pura

Vida"

is the country's slogan,  
which means "Pure Life".

By: Julie Carroll

# **Costa Rica**

## http://www.costaricatrees.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Costa-Rica1.bmp

**What & where to eat…**

Costa Rica has various types of restaurants including Mexican, Chinese, Indian and Argentinean. The most popular dish in Costa Rica is gallo pinto, which is simply rice and black beans cooked with a mixture of spices. San Jose, one of Costa Rica’s major cities, is the heart of fine dining and international cuisine. You can find “sodas” all throughout Costa Rica, which are small restaurants that serve light meals and snacks. With all the delicious foods that Costa Rica has to offer, you surely won’t go hungry! 

Costa Rica is a beautiful country and an ideal vacation spot for people young and old. Costa Rica is located in the middle of the Central American isthmus. It is 10 % north of the equator so temperature changes are very moderate. So if you’re looking to escape from the cold and want to warm up on one of the many beaches here, you can check out Costa Rica’s major cities of Jaco, Puerto Viejo and Manuel Antoni for some awesome sand and surf.



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**Historic sites & landmarks…**

Among the most appealing historic sites and landmarks are the Democracy Plaza and the Plaza of the Culture. The Democracy Plaza, located in San Jose, allows you to admire the mountains that surround the city. The Plaza of the Culture, also located in San Jose, is a great spot for relaxation and people watching. People can find entertainment by the performers and clowns that put on a show in the middle of the streets. There are even two museums underneath the plaza that is open to visitors.

**Other entertainment…**

-jazz bars & clubs

-casinos

-bars

-watering holes

-concert halls

-fiestas & bullfights

-mariachi bands

-shopping

-cos 

**Other entertainment…**

**Outdoor activities…**

Not only are there miles and miles of gorgeous beaches, but there are also many different national parks located in Costa Rica. Some of these national parks such as Braulio Carrillo, Cahuita and Corcovado all have a wide variety of wildlife, interesting monuments, and great trails for hiking. In Costa Rica, you can also get an excellent tour of the world famous Arenal Volcano, which is still active today. These national parks and volcanic sites are very fun to visit and provide an excellent way to observe and enjoy nature.



**Places to visit…**

Art, dance, music and theater flourish in the main cities of Costa Rica. San Jose loves to entertain people with its dramas and comedies at the Teatro Nacional. It is said that Costa Rica has more theater companies than anywhere else in the world. If you want to check out some amazing artwork, The San Jose Museum of Art holds many first rate paintings and works done by local artists. This particular museum has a special focus on West Coast art.

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**Transportation…**

There are many sources of transportation for moving between destinations in Costa Rica including domestic flights, shuttles, rental cars, private vans, public buses, ferries, taxis and even horseback. As you can see, there is a wide variety of cheap options for getting around the country.

**Culture…**

Although majority of the country’s inhabitants are the descendents of Spanish immigrants, many families originated from other parts of Europe, Africa, Central America and Asia. Most of Costa Rica’s population practices Roman Catholicism. Other religions practiced include Protestantism, Judaism, and Islam. The main language spoken in Costa Rica is Spanish. Other dialects exist including Costa Rican and Nicoyan. The people of Costa Rica, also known as Ticos, are very amiable and warm-hearted. Visitors will find the people here to be very helpful and polite. Don’t be surprised if you make a few friends while you are here!

